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**UP FRONT**
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Former Avalanche player drafted by American university team.....Page 8

Elk Point Review

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**PROUD TO BE PINK** – Elk Point Elementary School students and staff turned out in full force on Pink Shirt Day, Feb. 26, to show a united front against bullying. EPE students are encouraged all year round to be 'bucket fillers' who encourage and support each other and make the school a warm and friendly place filled with learning opportunities.

Vicki Brooker photo

# Town offering mower, not more money for Elk Point Golf and Country Club

**VICKI BROOKER**
*Review Staff*

With a full council on hand, the Town of Elk Point brought a request from the Elk Point Golf and Country Club back to the table, after tabling it at the Feb. 10 meeting when Coun. Dwayne Yaremkevich was on vacation, council feeling that he should have input on the decision as the town's representative to that club.

Coun. Yaremkevich felt the letter from Golf and Country Club president Don Schultz "explains the situation quite well," and added, referring to Schultz's report at that meeting, "We will be pumping from the creek day and night as soon as it thaws to fill the reservoir." The reservoir's water is vital to the golf course in times of dry weather, such as was experienced at the beginning of last year's golf season, and plans are now in place and equipment obtained for the pumping to take place.

The letter asked for an increase in the daily fee the club receives from the town for operation of the recreation park.

Last year, the club received $180 per day during the period the facilities were open, from May long weekend to Sept. 30, in exchange for maintenance of the campground, collecting campground fees, cleaning the bathrooms and showers, and mowing ball diamonds and soccer fields. That fee had previously been $220 per day, but was reduced in recent years after town administration asked if the club would consider the lower amount, as a way to help the town cope financially.

Since that time, the ball diamonds have seen increased use and another diamond has been added, which increases the workload, carbon tax and increases in the cost of fuel have taken their toll and minimum wage for workers has seen a substantial increase.

The club is now asking for $200 per day for 2020, with a further increase to $220 in 2021.

The club also has plans to purchase a used mower to extend the life expectancy of the present mower by reducing wear and tear, and Coun. Yaremkevich suggested council offer the club the town's used Kubota mower, instead of putting it up for sale, rather than increasing the daily fee. Reminding council that the club is still operating at a deficit, he pointed out, "If they don't survive, it will come back to us (to operate the recreation park) and it will cost us way more."

"There was a time when the town looked after the recreation park," Mayor Lorne Young recalled. "This freed up Public Works time. The challenge is that it puts more decisions on us; we have to be ready for anything. One of my thoughts is maybe we could give them the Kubota." The Kubota is suitable for rough mowing, and the mayor noted that Public Works superintendent had indicated it would cost significantly more in staff time for the town to do the work required at the park.

While Deputy Mayor Terri Hampson said that best practice dictates that the mower should be sold by tender, Coun. Debra McQuinn felt that offering it to the club would be "a compromise, with no dollar cost to us."

Council finally agreed to pass a motion to advise the club that the fee will be kept at $180 per day, but that the mower would be donated to the club.

### Economic Development

A motion at the Feb. 10 meeting to commit $5,000 in the Economic Development Committee (EDC) budget if the County of St. Paul would match the amount was rescinded, after county council moved to deny a similar request from the EDC until the county's own economic development strategy plan is firmed up.

*(Continued on page 8)*

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# St. Paul hosts 4-H District Communication Day

VICKI BROOKER
*Review Staff*

The top speakers and presenters from five 4-H clubs in the St. Paul district came together at Portage College on Sunday for their district completion, which determines who will move on to the North East 4-H Region competition on March 21.

A total of 13 speakers in three age groups and five individual and one pair of presenters impressed an array of knowledgeable judges with their well researched and interesting topics, which ranged from livestock raising of many kinds to environmental issues.

Presenters, their families and judges convened in a room down the hall and speakers took to the stage stage in the college gymnasium before both groups joined to hear the decisions of the judges, with the winners announced by master of ceremonies Addison Champagne and receiving their awards from Christian Lavoie, who emceed the presentations.

"We had a really hard time picking the winners," said Philip Ng, who judged the presenters along with John Kennett and Karol Cabaj-Martin. "It was crazy close."

First place in the Junior division of the Presentations competition went to brothers Kurt and Ethan Yaremko of the St. Paul Multi Club, who explained the process of "Raising Chickens," while Shyanne Klatt of Elk Point 4-H Beef Club was second with 'Inside Outside, Outside Inside," an exploration of equine colic.

In the Intermediate age group, Rhiana Champagne of St. Paul Multi demonstrated her love of chess with "Long Live the King," for first place, with Elk Point Beef's Shaylyn Klatt taking second with her colorful display on peafowl entitled "Crown of the Pride."

Rebecca Kotowich of St. Lina Beef chose a very timely topic for her very informative presentation on vaping issues and peer pressure, "Vaporized Dilemma", to place first in the Senior group, while Lexi Wirsta of Elk Point Multi presented a photographic travelogue of "An Adventure" - her visit to Costa Rica, for second place.

**TOP PRESNTERS** at the St. Paul 4-H District Communication Day were, left to right, Seniors Rebecca Kotowich, first, and Lexi Wirsta, second; Juniors Ethan and Kurt Yaremko, first and Shyanne Klatt, second; and Intermediates Rhiana Champagne, first and Shaylyn Klatt, second.

Vicki Brooker photo

Michelle Dargis spoke on behalf of the nine judges who adjudicated the speakers, echoing Ng's sentiments and noting there was "very stiff competition" between the speakers, who chose topics "they were enthusiastic and passionate about, and took strong stands," in addition to having "a great selection of impromptu topics" to choose from. Speech judges included Ellie Peters, Lynn Woytiuk, Lily Belland, Leanne Betts, Lana Macdonald, Sajrenka Kuryliw, Janine Huber and Kellie Nichiporik.

In the Junior division, Savannah Fontaine of St. Paul Multi took first place with a prepared speech on "My Favourite Place," Big Fork, Montana, combined with an impromptu on "My most hated hour of the day." Second place went to Hailey Danyluk of Elk Point Beef, who told the story of "The Journey of My First 4-H Project" and added an impromptu on 'Chores." Emma-Anne Miller of Boscombe Multi, Morris Amyotte of St. Lina Beef and Gareth Jacula of Goodridge Beef also competed in the Junior group.

This year's top Intermediate speaker was Mercedes Trefanenko of St. Paul Multi, who called being the middle child in the family "The Best Part of the Oreo," and spoke glowingly of "The Value of School Sports" in her impromptu. Jove Boorse of Elk Point Beef spoke knowingly about train tracks in "Gauge the Distance" and thought hard about "Skills I Would Like to Learn" in his impromptu for second place. Alayna Dechaine of St. Lina Beef and Jorja Hagen of Goodridge Beef also spoke in this group.

"The Toxicity of High School Hierarchy" was the winning topic in the Senior division for Kaydence Hagen of Goodridge Beef, whose impromptu emphasized the need for "More Agriculture Education in Schools." Second place went to Ashlynn Trefanenko of St. Paul Multi, who urged her listeners to "Open Our Eyes and Take Action" on plastic waste materials, followed up with an impromptu on "How I Benefitted From 4-H." Brooke Kotowich of Elk Point Beef and Ry-Anne Dechaine of St. Lina Beef also spoke in the Senior division.

The District Communications event was sponsored by Servus Credit Union and Altalink.

**OUTSTANDING SPEAKERS** at District Communications Day 2020 were, left to right: Juniors Savannah Fontaine, first, and Hailey Danyluk, second; Intermediates Mercedes Trefanenko, first, and Jove Boorse, second; and Seniors Kaydence Hagen, first and Ashlynn Trefanenko, second.

Vicki Brooker photo

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The County of St. Paul and Elk Point FCSS has partnered with the Canada Revenue Agency to bring you the ***Community Volunteer Income Tax Program.*** Trained Volunteers will be completing income tax returns, free of charge, for those who live in the County of St. Paul and the Town of Elk Point and who qualify this Tax Season.

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Starting March 2nd till April 30th any qualifying County & Town of Elk Point resident can drop off their taxes at the County office Monday to Friday or Elk Point FCSS Office (Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday) From 8:30am-12:00pm & 1:00pm-4:30pm.

We will also be available on
March 9th in Mallaig from 10:00am-12:00pm at the Seniors Center
March 10th in Elk Point from 9:00am-1:00pm at the Elk Point Lodge
March 11th in Ashmont from 9:00am-1:00pm at the Seniors Lodge
March 25th St. Paul from 9:00am-1:00pm at Sunny Side Manor

## Mower for golf club

*(Continued from page 1)*

The EDC agreed at their Feb. 13 meeting to request 50 per cent of the town's business license fees, and with that amount varying from year to year, council agreed that this was feasible, not only for this year, but for years that follow.

Council passed a motion to allocate 50 per cent of the annual business license fees collected by May 1 of each year to "an active EDC," which the mayor says, "gives them some predictable funding."

### Policies

A minor wording change in the Extreme Weather Mobilization Policy was approved, and a motion regarding changes to the Personnel Policy was deferred to the March 23 meeting.

### Audit

Manager of Finance Mir Ali reported that the audit team would be at the town office all week for both the Town and the Water Commission.

### AUMA

Deputy Mayor Hampson reported on a "very informative" AUMA session she attended on Feb. 7, that included sessions on the Clear Air Strategic Alliance and Water for Life. She also was taken on a tour of Goodwill, which diverts upwards of 70 per cent of the items they receive away from landfills, supporting disabled Albertans by making bikes for children with mobility issues from discarded bicycles and renting them to families, shipping plastic pails to Medicine Hat where they are made into pellets used in manufacture of plastic lumber, and shipping jeans to Honduras. Goodwill's outlet centre sells donated goods by the pound to eager customers. "It's amazing what they do," she commented.

### Gateway Entrance

Coun. Smereka said the EDC is "trying to cross things off the list," and is asking the town for help by working with the owners of unsightly premises, possibly by giving them a timeline to clean up and by enforcing the bylaw. This will be discussed more at the upcoming Public Works meeting.

### Towers

The deputy mayor questioned how far apart towers must be located, after businesses in the industrial area received letters advising that such structures are being planned. This was received as information.

### Bridging the creek

Coun. McQuinn had questions regarding the bridge on the trail between the Iron Horse Trail and the golf course, and whether it could be used by ATVs The mayor replied that it was not meant for quads, and suggested that the administration and public works research not only its condition but liability issues prior to the public works meeting.

# Uncertainty still exists following release of provincial budget

**JANICE HUSER**
*Review Contrubiutor*

There was plenty of mixed reaction following the release of the 2020 budget, last week. Some organizations were breathing a sigh of relief, while others are now moving forward dealing with deep cuts to funding.

For Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul MLA David Hanson, the focus of budget 2020 is clear: "That we are keeping to our plan toward a balanced budget by the end of this first term. I look at the $2.5 billion in debt servicing this year, that can't be spent on infrastructure or services, we have to get back to balance and start paying down our debt."

While Hanson acknowledged that there are "projects in the works" for the area, nothing specific was mentioned in the budget for the Bonnnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul region.

One item that will have an effect on all Albertans is an increase to the Education property tax that is paid to municipal governments through regular property taxes. Funds are pooled in the Alberta School Foundation Fund for distribution to school boards on an equal per-student rate.

"Nobody likes increases in taxes of any kind, but in this case, revenue from education property tax accounts for roughly 44 per cent of the education budget," explained Hanson. "It's important that we maintain an excellent standard in education."

The Education tax supports all public and separate school students and helps pay for basic instruction costs, including teacher salaries, textbooks and other classroom resources, according to the Government of Alberta.

"In Budget 2020-21, the province is collecting about $2.6 billion in education property taxes from municipalities. The annual requisition is now set based on population growth plus inflation," according to the Government of Alberta website.

According to St. Paul Education Regional Division board chair Heather Starosielski, "There appears to be more flexibility, predictable allocations over three years, less red tape in regards to reporting and administration," in this budget.

"The process for developing our budget will be better understood once we receive our full funding profile on Monday, March 2, and then on March 9 SPERD will discuss in further detail the impact of the provincial budget in a teleconference with Alberta Education representatives," said Starosielski. The board should be able to better comment about the budget after March 9.

### Municipalities

Town of St. Paul CAO Kim Heyman was happy to see MSI funding was continued for another year, "so that is definitely a relief."

"Next year however it will drop by about $100 million, (provincially)," she added. Due to other changes, Heyman said it appears the town may be competing against much larger cities for "a lot less grant dollars," when it comes to transportation grants.

"I think the biggest immediate area of concern for us in this budget is the lack of clarity around the Parent Link programming," said Heyman. "We know that Parent Link funding will end March 31, 2020, and we know there will be some funding for a new program called Family Resilience."

While the Town of St. Paul has submitted an Expression of Interest to the new funding model it is still unknown how much funding could be received and what kind of programming will be allowed.

"So, we are a month out from the end of Parent Link with no idea how much funding we will receive and what we will be able to do with it," said Heyman, adding Parent Link fills a real need in the community.

For the County of St. Paul, there are a number of concerns following the release of the budget, according to CAO Sheila Kitz.

She pointed to the increase in Education tax as being one of those concerns. "This will result in increased taxation for our residents, which does not stay in municipal budgets for our services. Therefore, if the municipality requires increased funding for our services residents will get hit with increases in both municipal taxation as well as school tax," said Kitz.

"The other factor to consider with this type of taxation is that we are required to pay a requisition to the province regardless of whether or not the tax bill is paid by our ratepayers."

Kitz also pointed to a concern around MSI funding, which has remained as expected for this year, but will likely decrease in the future.

Under the Alberta Transportation department, the Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program (STIP) has been cut in half, according to Kitz. The county has used this fund for resource roads and bridges, in the past.

"We are happy to see that the province is continuing to fund Agriculture Societies. We do see that the funding for the County's Agriculture Service Board has been reduced which is a concern for the County's agricultural services," explained Kitz.

She noted that the change for rural and smaller urban municipalities to pay for policing will also have an impact to tax collection, and "It will be a waiting game to see if the increase tax collected will result in decreased crime for our area."

Her final concern has to do with the assessment of Designated Industrial Properties. While changes are not in effect for 2020, the county has concerns that a change in assessment model will affect 2021 and future tax years.

"I think that all the changes throughout the different government departments have potential to really change the way municipalities operate and provide services in the future. I also worry about the sustainability of smaller towns and villages as well as smaller rural municipalities," said Kitz.

### Job Creation

The budget speaks about job creation and getting Albertans back to work, when about the province's approach to getting this accomplished, Hanson said, "We have already seen increases in capital investment due to our reduction in corporate taxation. I think we will see more as the rate continues down to 8 per cent. We need private sector investment to secure good paying jobs. Those corporations and their employees taxes provide a lot of the revenue the province needs to provide services we all want."

### New Taxes

Within the budget, there are two specific new taxes being introduced. The first is a tax on vaping related products, and the second is a tourism levy on short-term rentals.

"The tax on vaping is meant to discourage young people from starting," said Hanson.

The other new levy affects short-term rentals, which are more commonly referred to as Airbnb. The new tourism levy "is due to requests from adjacent residents and the hotel industry that indicated some misuse of the system," explained Hanson. "The original intent was for homeowners to temporary rent their own space, (but) many have evolved to permanent short-term rental properties, much like hotels."

*(Continued on page 7)*

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## EDITORIAL

# Holding the line not a cut, but...

The Provincial Budget has come down, and set off a massive mob scene in front of the Legislature, many waving placards protesting cuts in funding.

As far too many Albertans already know, money is tight and has gotten tighter with the inability to ship our natural resources to market. Unsold oil means less royalties going into the provincial coffers, as does less income tax being paid by workers who have been laid off or had their hours cut.

The bottom line is, the province, like the rest of us, still has to pay the bills, but with less coming in, it doesn't leave any money for extra spending. Those sectors that will receive the same amount as in the previous year will have to seek out ways to spend less, just like all the rest of Albertans, if they are to do more or retain services at the current level. Holding the line is not an actual cut, but it still presents challenges.

## TAX TIPS

# Tax tips for seniors

**CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**
*Review Contributors*

Are you turning 65 or older? Here are some tax tips from the Chartered Professional Accountants of British Columbia (CPABC) to make sure you maximize your tax savings:

1. **Get your benefits** - If you'll soon be turning 65, make sure you have applied to receive your Old Age Security and, if you haven't done so already, consider applying to Canadian Pension Plan (CPP). The default age to claim CPP pension benefits is 65, but you can choose to begin receiving your pension benefits as early as age 60, at a cost of reduced monthly benefits, or you can choose to delay receiving your pension benefits until after age 70 to receive increased monthly benefits.
2. **Start making plans for your RRSP funds** - You must wind up your RRSP by Dec. 31 of the year you turn 71. However, a complete withdrawal at that time is usually not the best option, because your entire RRSP balance will be taxed in the one year. Instead, consider transferring your RRSP funds on a tax-deferred basis to a Registered Retirement Income Fund (RRIF), or use your RRSP funds to purchase an annuity. Either of these options will pay you a taxable income stream over time. Note: There are significant differences between a RRIF and an annuity – you should consult a chartered professional accountant or investment advisor before making your decision.
3. **Divide and conquer (your pension income)** - Consider splitting your pension income with your spouse to allow the higher-earning individual to share up to half of their pension income (excluding the Canada Pension Plan) with their lower-earning spouse. This will help level your income so one person isn't taxed significantly more than the other.

*(Continued on page 5)*

The Elk Point Review publishes a variety of opinions as a contribution to debate on matters of public concern. Unsigned editorials express the view of this newspaper's editorial board which includes the Publisher and the Editor. Signed pieces express the view of the individual writer.

## WAY BACK WHEN...

# Cancan skaters, Fidler stamp, kitchen project, RAK mob

HERE'S THE NEWS THAT MADE THE HEADLINES OF THE LAKELAND REVIEW AND ELK POINT REVIEW FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 3 IN...

### 1985

Dances of many eras, from the Gay 1890s cancan the exciting 1980s punk rock, were the theme of the 1985 ice carnival, where 20 local groups took part along with guest skaters from St. Paul. Doug Gillies of Alberta Opportunity Company visited the chamber of commerce to outline ways AOC could assist businesses unable to obtain financing from conventional lenders.

### 1990

New councilors Charlie Mahon and Louis Verhagen were sworn in by Mayor Bruce Kleeberger, filling the empty chairs resulting from the resignation of Alvina Schuhmacher and a withdrawal at the time of the 1989 general election. Planning was underway for Canada Day, with the committee chaired by Lawrence Pidluzny choosing the International Year of Literacy as the theme for the celebration.

### 1995

Town council supported an initiative put forward by Fort Dauphin Museum in Dauphin, MB to have fur trader and explorer Peter Fidler honoured on a commemorative postage stamp that would be released in 1998. Michael Povaschuk, Spencer Easthope and Thomas Goulet were the top cake decorators as Boy Scouts and Cubs celebrated the birthday of their founder, Lord Baden-Powell.

### 2000

Steve Penz, Bernice Capjack, Tammy and Robyn Yakemchuk accepted the Doug Berg Memorial trophies at the Elk Point Mixed Bonspiel after their final win over Jeremy Wetsch, Sheila and Richard Nelson and Danelle Brown. A 16-year-old Bonnyville youth was arrested and charged with four counts of break, enter and theft after a rash of break-and-enters in Elk Point.

### 2005

Decades of snowmobile history took to the Iron Horse Trail in the annual vintage snowmobile rally after a show where Mike Williams received the most votes for his 1971 Ski Roule Diablo. Chelsea Schnurer, Robyn Ockerman and Kayla Gibson took home first place trophies and Amanda Zapesocki, Janice Tymofichuk and Britney Heathcote were runners-up at the Elk Point 4-H Multi Club public speaking competition.

### 2010

Elk Point town council stirred $25,000 of Municipal Sustainability Initiative funding into the pot for the Arts and Leisure Centre's kitchen project and agreed to cosign the Regional Allied Arts Society's lease-to-own agreement to equip the kitchen for hot food service. Northern Lights Library System director Mircea Panciuk and assistant Brigitte Sakaluk lobbied MP Brian Storseth for funding for public access computes and expansion of the book shipping postage rate to include other library materials.

### 2015

F. G. Miller High School students, staff and volunteers formed giant letters 'R,' 'A' and 'K' as they stood up in support of Random Acts of Kindness Week and Anti-Bullying Day, following a heartwarming message from Bill Gordon, originator of the Practitioners of Underground Philanthropy movement which is heartily endorsed at FGM. Water figured prominently on town council's agenda, with discussions regarding a proposed dry pond, breaks in the regional water line and an updated utilities bylaw.

**ELK POINT REVIEW**
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# FGM licks bullying, spreads kindness

**VICKI BROOKER**
*Review Staff*

Pink Shirt Day saw many F. G. Miller High School students getting on board with the annual anti-bullying effort, which is now in its sixth year. Pink shirts were everywhere, and many of those who wore them were seen to be licking lollipops.

FGM librarian Denise Bjorkman spearheaded this year's event, and says, "At FGM this year, we went with the 'Bullying Sucks! I Pledge to Lick it!' slogan and logo. Willing students signed the pledge and placed it beneath our Kindness Fits banner in our Library Learning Commons.

"Each student who signed a pledge received a lollipop on Pink Day. Those that wore pink of any sort, a t-shirt or anything pink, received two lollipops!" They also gathered in front of the banner and windows dotted with pledges in the Library Learning Commons as part of Wednesday's group shot.

Pink Shirt Day comes in the middle of Random Acts of Kindness Week, and some FGM students got a head start on spreading kindness, Bjorkman said.

"Our Healthy Living Grade 9 class RAKed the school at the beginning of Random Acts of Kindness week with post-it notes of kindness on all our student lockers. Students also went around and asked if there were any jobs they could do. I had two students put up my pink book display!"

**WALL-TO-WALL PINK** – F. G. Miller High School students gathered in the Library Learning Commons on Pink Shirt Day to reinforce their vows to "Lick bullying" and put kindness and understanding in its place.

Vicki Brooker photo

**PLEDGING TO LICK BULLYING** – F. G. Miller students started off Pink Shirt Day by posting pledges vowing to "Lick Bullying" on the Library Learning Commons windows.

Denise Bjorkman photo

**LICKABLE REWARDS** were handed out by librarian Denise Bjorkman (left) to students who had posted their pledges, with an extra sucker for those who wore pink.

Vicki Brooker photo

## Tax tips

*(Continued from page 4)*

Consider consulting a chartered professional accountant early in the year to make sure pension splitting won't affect your income tax brackets.

**4. Retain your medical expense records** - In certain circumstances, you can claim a tax credit for medical expenses. For 2019, the tax credit is available only on the portion of the medical expenses that exceeds the lesser of three per cent of your net income or $2,352 for both federal and Alberta tax purposes.

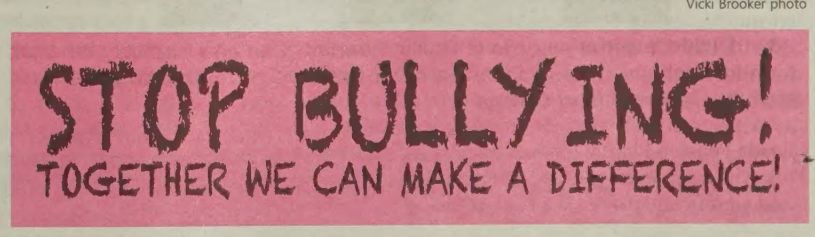
The following are considered medical expenses: payments to private health insurance plans (e.g. medical insurance for your cruise trip to Alaska); fees to optometrists, dentists, and chiropractors; the cost of prescription glasses and contact lenses, medical lab tests, hospital services and treatments, prescription medication; and medical devices such as artificial limbs and dentures.

The list above is not exhaustive. If you have any questions regarding what is considered a medical expense, consult a chartered professional accountant.

**5. Report your foreign property, snowbirds!**

If you spend the winter months living in your vacation home in Maui and then rent it out during the rest of the year, you will be required to file a U.S. income tax return and report that income on your Canadian income tax return. You must also indicate whether your foreign property is worth over $100,000. The foreign property reporting requirements are complex, and failure to comply can result in significant penalties.

*Tax rules relating to these RRSP tips are complex. This is not intended as tax advice, and you should not make tax decisions based solely on the information presented in these tips. You should seek the advice of a chartered professional accountant before implementing a tax plan or taking a tax filing position.*




St. Paul Education
*Learning Together, Growing Together*

**Kindergarten Registration for the 2020/2021 School Year**

Registrations are being accepted for prospective Kindergarten students. Contact your school of choice for more information or visit our website at www.stpauleducation.ab.ca/parents.

| | |
|---|---|
| Ashmont School | 780-726-3777 |
| Ecole Mallaig School | 780-635-3858 |
| Elk Point Elementary School | 780-724-3880 |
| Glen Avon School | 780-645-3237 |
| Heinsburg Community School | 780-943-3913 |
| New Myrnam School | 780-366-3801 |
| Ecole St. Paul Elementary Community School | 780-645-3537 |
| Two Hills School | 780-657-3383 |
| Two Hills Mennonite School | 780-657-2434 |

Students must turn five years old before Dec. 31 to be registered in Kindergarten. Birth certificate and proof of residence are required to register.

# Businesses think PINK!

**ATB FINANCIAL** staff members Sherry Schmitt, Kelly Currey, Julie Roth, Faye Poitras and branch manager Carla Ganske were pretty in pink on Wednesday, in recognition of Pink Shirt Day.

Vicki Brooker photo

**ELK POINR REVIEW** advertising manager Melanie McRae was all set to Stand Up against bullying on Pink Shirt Day.

Vicki Brooker photo

**SERVUS CREDIT UNION** – Lorrie O'Reilly, Deena Smith and branch manager Jennifer Dallaire followed their annual tradition of supporting the Pink Shirt Day anti-bullying campaign.

Vicki Brooker photo

**CORNERSTONE CO-OP** manager Nathan Parsons and staffer Annette Sakowsky were right in style on Pink Shirt Day, along with Cornerstone employees across the region.

Photo Submitted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**LAKELAND REGIONAL** Mondays - $11.75 per week + GST
**COMBINATION OF 4 PAPERS - $33.00 / WEEK**
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SAVE THE DATE!!! 100 Years of Friends, Family and Fellowship. Eckville Homecoming 2021. July 1 - 4, 2021. Stay tuned for more details.

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**FREESOM TO READ WEEK at Elk** Point Municipal Library included a display of books that have been banned over the decades for a variety of reasons, from racism and profanity to the portrayal of the forestry industry, as noted on the sticky notes attached to each one, and written by authors ranging from John Steinbeck and Mark Twain to Dr. Seuss. The display also included quotes on the freedom to ready by such notables as Oprah Winfrey and Judy Blume and a Freedom to Read Week poster, its non-edited words stating, 'discover what you're missing".

## Provincial budget

*(Continued from page 3)*

### Post-Secondary

Through the budget, it was also announced that the post-secondary system is being reduced by five per cent for the 2020-21 fiscal year.

In St. Paul, one of the larger post-secondary institutions operating is Portage College, and the institution confirmed it will see a significant drop in funds in some areas.

Portage College specific grant information is as follows, according to a media release sent out on Feb. 28. The Campus Alberta grant will see a reduction of 7.1 per cent, which translates to over $1.6 million; Post-secondary Mental Health Grant will decrease by 10.3 per cent, which is a reduction of $20,000; Students with Disabilities will see a zero per cent cut, which means funding will remain at the 2019-20; and the Infrastructure Maintenance Program will be restored to the 2019-20 level at $1.2 million.

"The cut to the Campus Alberta Grant in 2020-21 of -7.1 per cent is larger than we were planning," said Nancy Broadbent, President and CEO of Portage College. "This level of a cut to Portage's main source of funding is serious. We will have loss of jobs through attrition and layoffs, reductions in hours of service and program restructuring as well as changes to courses and class sizes."

### Summary

Overall, when looking at the budget, Hanson said it keeps in line with what the United Conservative Party campaigned on.

"This budget keeps us on track to meet the goals we campaigned on. There are many outside forces that affect our budget, including the volatility in oil and commodity prices, as well as the recent Corona virus effects on the world economy. The only thing we can actually control is how we spend."

FROM THE HACK

# First playoff round complete

**JOANNE WARAWA**
*Elk Point Curling Club*

After our first of three weeks of playoffs, the Ballas, Warawa, Macdonald and Jacula rinks from the A pool made it through to the next round of playoffs. In the B pool, it is the Elks, Anderson, Smerdixen and Boorse rinks that move on. The rest of the teams will continue to play but the games will be just for fun – well, I mean they all are, anyway!

This week's team of the week is the Elks team skipped by Mike Chubey, third Don Pilisko, second Lorn Berg and lead Geoff Hoyle. They finished in the bottom half of the pack, but that doesn't mean they are a team not to be feared. This past year, Geoff put in an enormous amount of volunteer work redoing the bathrooms and Lorne with changing out all the lights on the ice.

Best of luck to all the teams in the next round!

**THE ELKS TEAM** is made up of (left to right) lead Geoff Hoyle, skip Mike Chubey, third Don Pilisko and (not shown) second Lorn Berg.

Joanne Warawa photo

# Former Avalanche player signed to US university team

**ELK POINT MICRO NOVICE AVALANCHE** had a great time at the Mallaig Initiation Tournament on Feb.22.

Courtney Kelly photo

**VICKI BROOKER**
*Review Staff*

A former Elk Point Avalanche player has just been signed to an American university hockey team.

Paige Henderson, now of Melville, SK, has been signed to the women's hockey 2020-21 recruiting class at Midland University in Fremont, Nebraska. Paige has played hockey since she was eight, and most recently skated for the Parkland Potzus Fire of the Saskatchewan Midget AA league. This season she has appeared in 26 games for the Fire, scoring four goals and assisting on five others.

In a press release from the university, Midland hockey coach Jason White calls Paige "a strong, mobile defenseman with a heavy shot. She has natural leadership qualities to go along with her defensive ability. She will provide us with much needed depth in our back end next year."

Midland Lady Warriors are in the hunt for their second straight berth to the American Collegiate Hockey Association National Tournament after reaching the top eight in 2019-20.

### Peewee Avalanche season over

Elk Point Peewee Avalanche wrapped up their season at this weekend's tournament in Vermilion. Lindsay Malachowski reports that the team "ended up not winning a game, but were close with three teams that were our rivals during regular season play."

The Avs lost to Glendon 7-3 Saturday morning. "We were tied 2-2 after two periods of play but just couldn't hold it together. We lost to Bonnyville 6-4 late Saturday night after pulling our goalie to try and tie it up. They got an empty netter. We were actually losing 4-1 after the first period and came back with three more goals. Then we lost to Vermilion first thing Sunday morning in a nail biter, 2-1.

We are done for the season!"

Got hockey news? Please send it to vbrooker@stpaul.greatwest.ca by 9 p.m. Sunday night!


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